

Rebels claim capture of major town FAO seeks urgent aid to feed 4 million Ethiopians

NAIROBI (Agencies)—A U.N. agency Wednesday appealed for 700,000 tons of food to avert widespread starvation in northern Ethiopia where it said as many as four million people are threatened by famine.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said its estimate was based on a recent crop survey which found that serious drought had cut harvests by nearly 80 per cent in Eritrea and 50 per cent in Eritrea's southern neighbour, Tigray.

FAO said there also would be food deficits in eastern Ethiopia and to a lesser extent in pockets of the southern and central regions.

An "international relief operation of major proportions" is needed to avert a repeat of the 1984-85 drought and famine when an estimated one million people died, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said in a news release issued in Nairobi.

The Ethiopian government has put the number of people threatened with hunger at 1.8 million and directed the country's own relief agencies to study ways to get relief food to them.

But Saouma said the situation has deteriorated since the FAO's initial estimates in September. "The population at risk is increasing at an alarming rate," he said.

Saouma said current food stocks in the affected areas would be exhausted by early 1990. He said only 270,000 tons of food had been pledged so far by

international donors and appealed for 700,000 tons of emergency food mostly for the drought-affected northern regions and 400,000 tons of structural and project food aid.

Saouma also urged donors to provide logistic support to ensure the "timely delivery" of the emergency aid.

Saouma did not specify the nature of logistic support, but fighting in Eritrea and Tigray between the government and insurgents has closed many roads, a situation that might require air-craft for relief deliveries.

Relief agencies and donors have so far unsuccessfully appealed to the rebels and the government to agree on air and ground corridors through which supplies can move, unhindered by fighting.

Another U.N. agency, the World Food Programme, has appealed for 600,000 tons of food to feed as many as four million people.

Rebels in Northern Ethiopia said Wednesday they had defeated a major offensive by government forces and captured the large town of Debre Tabor in Gondar province, 320 kilometres northwest of Addis Ababa.

A spokesman for the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) told Reuters 3,200 government troops had been killed or wounded in heavy fighting around Debre Tabor which started last week.

"It's a very significant victory," spokesman Tewelde Gabru said from London in a telephone in-

terview. He did not detail rebel losses.

Tewelde said rebel forces took Debre Tabor, on the road from Gondar to Wollo province, after defeating a three-pronged offensive by government troops from the 603rd army corps.

TPLF clandestine radio said Wednesday the decisive battle for Debre Tabor had taken place Monday and Tuesday.

The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said two Ethiopian generals abandoned their troops and fled a few hours after the heavy fighting started.

The TPLF and its small ally the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM) control the whole of Tigre province and since the end of August have pushed south to capture large areas of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa.

The two rebel movements are fighting together as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) to topple the Soviet-backed government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and set up a broader-based government.

Another rebel movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) is fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony.

Tewelde said the government offensive in Gondar and Wollo had been launched with the aid of thousands of new recruits drafted into the army over the last three months.

Starvation threat looms: Tigre farmers gather their failed barley crop as Ethiopia faces a famine

GCC strives to settle border disputes

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI—Six Gulf Arab states are making concerted efforts to clean up a series of border disputes tarnishing the image of their otherwise successful political and economic alliance, Arab and western political analysts say.

Closed talks on the problem at the annual summit of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman in Muscat last week were already bearing fruit, they say.

"There is a general realisation that these things have to be settled, and settled peacefully, if the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) is going to continue to make progress," said one European diplomat.

Since the end of the 10th GCC meeting, Saudi Arabia and Oman have agreed to finally settle the demarcation of their border.

Diplomats said Saudi King Fahd had also started a round of shuttle diplomacy with a visit to Bahrain last Saturday to mediate in a longstanding dispute between Bahrain and Qatar over some small islands lying between their countries.

The border problems on the Arabian Peninsula have their roots in the historic movement of nomadic tribes through vague frontiers.

"These problems were natural because of the interdependence of tribes, shifting local allegiances, and the constant change in political power between local chieftains, the Ottoman empire, and then the

"British," said one Gulf Arab analyst.

Discovery of the biggest oil and gas deposits in the world over the past 30 years compounded the problem by forcing peoples accustomed to flux to create fixed nation states sitting firmly on top of these energy reserves.

The tribal defence of small and scattered desert oases wells, which assured them of life-giving water, turned into a national preoccupation with the barren desert itself, which might assure the nascent Gulf states of undreamed of wealth.

"Energy resources became the problem, otherwise who would want most of the land here," said another Western diplomat.

Saudi Arabia, which borders every other modern state on the

peninsula, has not surprisingly had more difficulty fixing its frontiers than the others, the diplomats said.

Even now, remote tribes on the Saudi border with the two Yemens, which are not GCC members, are difficult to police and come and go much as they please, diplomats say.

Diplomatic analysts say the Bahrain-Qatar dispute is a perfect example of the newer problems associated with energy resources.

The Hawar Islands are little more than sand-covered rocks but they are believed to sit on top of huge gas deposits.

The diplomats said a solution may be to divide the islands between the two, or make them neutral and split any revenues that may accrue from future gas finds.

Romanian leaders want good ties with Arabs

TUNIS (R)—The new Romanian leadership has reassured the Arab League it wants good relations with Arab states and does not believe allegations that Arabs were fighting in support of the late President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Adnan Omran, assistant secretary general of the league, told Reuters Wednesday, that U.S.-financed Radio Free Europe, based in West Germany, had broadcast a report that Arab "mercenaries" were fighting alongside Ceausescu's secret police.

"It came from elements hostile to the Arabs and known to be pro-Zionist in the past," he added.

Omran said he was reassured by Romanian Charge d'Affaires Martin Albu at a meeting in Tunis Tuesday.

"He said the intention of the National Salvation Front was to stress good relations with the Arabs and he denied any involvement of Arabs in the fighting."

A Romanian embassy spokesman declined to comment but pointed out that the allegations had not come from the new leadership or the official Romanian media.

Radio Bucharest said last week that unidentified foreign mercenaries had joined Ceausescu's secret police and the Yugoslavian and Hungarian media identified them as Syrians and Libyans. Syria and Libya have dismissed the allegations.

Deported Iranian claims maltreatment by British

NICOSIA (AP)—An Iranian student deported from Britain for "reasons of national security" arrived Wednesday in Tehran and accused the British police of subjecting him to mental and physical torture during interrogation.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Karen Abrinia, a 32-year-old engineering student in Manchester, England, was met on arrival at Mehrabad airport by delegations from the ministries of culture and higher education as well as a large group of Tehran University students.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Abrinia and three fellow Iranians were arrested on Dec. 15 after a prayer gathering at a Manchester Mosque during which Muslims renewed their commitment to the teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The other three were identified as Mehrdad Kokabi, Hussein Gharibi and Javad Musavi. After five days of interrogation, police released Gharibi and Musavi, and announced that Kokabi and Abrinia would be deported "for reasons of national security."

British authorities did not provide other details.

IRNA quoted Abrinia as saying that while in custody he was subjected to "severe mental pressure," and that his interrogators threatened to imprison his wife and send their five-year-old child to a nursery for care.

He claimed, according to IRNA, that the British police treated the four detainees in an "ugly and inhumane" manner, but did not elaborate on the alleged physical abuse.

IRNA said Kokabi, 33, who was supposed to be deported with Abrinia "has been jailed again for trial."

It did not say when Kokabi was rearrested.

Local police in Manchester Wednesday referred calls on the subject to Scotland Yard, the national police force.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said "not at all" when asked if Kokabi had been rearrested. "As far as we're concerned, we've got rid of them," he said, refusing to be named.

The Iranians were arrested under the prevention of terrorism act which gives the British police the right to hold suspects for seven days without being charged.

Attorney Zahir Aziz, who represented the four Iranians, has said they were under the impression that they were arrested on suspicion they planned to kill Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie.

The latest friction coincided with indications London-Tehran ties may be patched up after nearly a year of strain.

Relations were severed in February after Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Khomeini, patriarch of the Islamic revolution, died June 3. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a so-called pragmatist, has since been trying to patch up relations with the West and end Iran's decade-long isolation.

But his anti-western hardline rivals have been blocking his efforts.

Iran, Turkey better ties

NICOSIA (AP)—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati discussed with a Turkish envoy in Tehran Wednesday bilateral relations that had been strained over the alleged harassment of Iranian students in Turkey.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Velayati and his guest, Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Chahim, emphasised during their talks the importance of frequent contacts to expand relations.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said they also called for closer cooperation among the three member states of the Economic Cooperation Organisation — Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

Chahim, IRNA added, extended through Velayati a formal invitation to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani from his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal, to visit Turkey.

Chahim arrived in Tehran Monday on a four-day official visit.

Tehran newspapers lashed out at Ankara last month, claiming that a number of Iranian students in Turkey had been arrested and tortured by police.

The newspaper alleged that the students' homes were ransacked and the occupants arrested after a Saudi diplomat in Ankara lost both legs in a car-bomb explosion.

Yang praises GCC efforts

NICOSIA (R)—Chinese President Yang Shangkun expressed support Wednesday for efforts by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to seek a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Omani News Agency reported. Yang discussed the stalled U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq with Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman, who last week hosted a summit meeting of the six GCC leaders.

The Chinese president stressed his country will continue to support GCC efforts and the role of the U.N. secretary-general "to break the deadlock, the agency quoted Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi as saying. China is one of the five permanent members in the Security Council, whose resolution 598 brought about a ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war 16 months ago. Yang, who earlier visited Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, is on his first foreign trip since Chinese forces violently crushed pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in June. Chinese and Western political analysts have said his tour is apparently aimed at countering Western political and economic sanctions imposed after the crackdown.

Israel confirms Iran oil deal

TEL AVIV (R)—Israel, breaking 10 days of silence, has acknowledged it bought oil from Iran. "I was informed of the matter," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told Israeli reporters in Beersheba late Tuesday when asked about the purchase. A senior foreign ministry official Wednesday confirmed the minister's acknowledgement of the Israeli-Iran deal, which the American television network NBC reported was linked to efforts to free Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon. At least one of six missing Israeli soldiers is held by pro-Iranian groups of Lebanon. Israel previously declined comment on an NBC report of Dec. 17 that it paid \$36 million for two million barrels of Iranian oil unloaded in "Elial" in mid-November. The deal recalled the embarrassing Iran-contra scandal that shook the administration of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan when it became known that Israel, with U.S. approval, shipped arms to Iran in a proposed swap for prisoners in 1985. NBC said Israel hoped to use the November oil deal to free

its soldiers and possibly Westerners held in Lebanon. It said Washington, anxious to free U.S. hostages believed held by pro-Iranian groups, had given its blessing. Israeli officials had refused comment, saying government policy was not to comment on oil deals. Israel's daily oil requirement is 170,000 barrels.

Andreotti begins visit to Yemens

ROME (R)—Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Wednesday began a four-day visit to North and South Yemen, officials said. Andreotti will spend two days in each country. Italian officials said Rome had particularly good relations with the two Yemens, maintained even when South Yemen was largely ostracised by the West in the late 1960s after independence from Britain in 1967. They said Andreotti would discuss with the leaders of the two countries the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, all areas that closely interest Italy. They said he would also discuss economic cooperation and trade, particularly increasing oil imports from North Yemen. The state energy corporation ENI is discussing with North Yemen a project to exploit natural gas deposits in the country, officials said.

Israel sends aid to Romania

TEL AVIV (R)—Israel, voicing support for the Romanian uprising, sent a plane packed with more than six tonnes of medical supplies Wednesday for people wounded in the battles to overthrow executed President Nicolae Ceausescu. Health Minister Yaacov Tsor, the airlift organiser, said: "There is certainly in this a political expression of solidarity by Israel with what is happening in Romania and with the fight of the Romanian people for peace and democracy." Officials ascribed Israel's concern also to the 274,000 Jews of Romanian descent who live in Israel, the second largest immigrant community after Moroccans. The Hercules air force transport plane left for Romania with two doctors, who will deliver more than \$100,000 in supplies and advise the health ministry on additional needs. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told parliament: "We in Israel are full of admiration for the Romanian people for their courage which led to a democratic revolution."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Book of Adventure
18:00	News for the Deaf
18:20	Religious programme
19:00	Health programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:20	Arabic film
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Champs Elysees
18:00	News in French
19:15	Amfoudi Tili en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Guinness Record
21:10	The Return of Sherlock Holmes
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "Killing Stone"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:07	Fajr
06:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:37	Dhuhr
14:21	'Asr
16:44	Maghrib
18:07	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 717561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751	
Assman International Church Tel. 627981, 663526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cool. Winds will be light and variable becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	5/16
Aqaba	9/23
Deserts	3/17
Jordan Valley	11/21
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mounir Al Qasbi 776258	

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AMMAN:	
Dr. Mounir Al Qasbi 776258	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3300-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:00	Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
05:15	Rome (add.) (RJ)
05:30	New Delhi (RJ)
05:45	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
06:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
06:15	Rome (add.) (RJ)
06:30	Cairo (add.) (RJ)
06:45	London (RJ)
06:50	Larnaca (RJ)
07:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
07:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
07:30	Bangkok (RJ)
07:45	Rome (RJ)
08:00	Casablanca, Madrid, Tunis (RJ)
08:15	Rome (add.) (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:10	Sanaa (LH)
10:00	Baghdad (LH)
11:00	Baghdad (LA)
12:25	Riyadh (SV)

14:50 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
 15:00 Kuvait (KU)
 15:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
 16:30 Damascus, Dubai (ZK)
 21:55 Cairo (MS)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in file per kg.

Apple	420 / 380
Banana	450 / 400
Banana (Aukamman)	400 / 350
Beans	280 / 220
Cabbage	120 / 60
Carrot	220 / 180
Cauliflower	200 / 150
Caulers (large)	300 / 220
Cucumbers	300 / 400
Cucumbers	500 / 400
Eggs	180 / 120
Grapes	800 / 700
Grapefruit	240 / 200
Lemon	200 / 120
Marrow (large)	140 / 80
Marrow (small)	220 / 160
Onion (dry)	240 / 200
Onion (green)	150 / 100
Orange	220 / 150
Orange (Shamout)	320 / 240
Pepper (hot)	240 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 160
Potatoes	100 / 100
Raddish	220 / 220
Sage	500 / 400
Spinach	120 / 80
Tomatoes	530 / 280

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00	Koran
18:15	Children programme
18:30	Religious programme
18:45	Friday's prayer
19:00	Sports programme
19:15	Religious seminar
19:30	Feature film
19:40	Message from Omani
19:50	Local programme
19:55	Local programme
20:00	Programme review
20:05	News in Arabic
20:10	Arabic series
20:15	Jerash '89
20:20	Local programme
20:25	Arabic series
20:30	News summary in Arabic
20:35	Programme concl.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	La Grande Cabriole
17:45	News in French
18:00	Documentary
19:15	News in Hebrew
19:30	News in Arabic
19:45	News in Arabic
20:00	Mr. Belvedere
20:15	New cycle preview
20:30	News in English
20:45	Gobys
21:10	Thane's Comedy

PRAYER TIMES

05:00	Fair
06:30	(Sunrise) Datta
11:30	Datta
14:22	Asr
16:45	Maghreb

FOR FRIDAY

Ministry committed to press freedoms

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin Wednesday stressed the ministry's interest and commitment to advancing the atmosphere of freedom and democracy which surrounds Jordan's march in these sensitive circumstances.

Speaking to the president and members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), who called at his office to congratulate him on his appointment, Izzeddin said that the ministry is committed to allow press freedoms and freedom of expression and opinion in the various mass media.

He said the ministry believes in the need for providing freedoms to the mass media and stressed the importance of media cooperation to make this difficult experiment a success. The minister stressed that this experiment needs to be handled carefully, honestly and responsibly.

Izzeddin outlined the important role the JPA can play in advocating the rights of its members and pledged the ministry's full support for the association. JPA president Hashem Khreisat conveyed the congratulations of the JPA members to Izzeddin on his appointment. Khreisat pointed out that Izzeddin's appointment coincided with the government's measures to rectify the situations of the press foundations and rescinding the economic security committee's decision, dissolving the elected board of directors of the press foundations in Jordan. Khreisat said the JPA will maintain objectivity and credibility in dealing with the new situations. He voiced the association's resolve to advance the journalism profession and to contribute towards giving it a greater role in tackling national and pan-Arab issues.



ACC PREMISES: Prime Minister Madad Badran and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassia Ramadan Wednesday open the General Secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council (Petra photo)

Senate speaker meets Chinese delegation

Lawzi stresses need for peace in the Middle East

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday stressed the need for finding a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine question in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, which call for the exchange of land for peace and an end to the Israeli occupation. The resolutions recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their own state on their national soil.

Lawzi said that there are two kinds of colonialism today, Israeli colonialism and South African colonialism. Lawzi said inhuman Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, which include killings, torture, demolition of houses, closure of schools and universities and war of starvation against the Palestinian people, are against human rights conventions concerning the protection of civilians under occupation.

Lawzi described the Chinese delegation's visit to the region as extremely important because China is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. He called on the delegation

members to expose the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and explain the Palestinian tragedy to the Chinese people, which account for one fifth of the world population.

He said that Jordan, which believes in freedom, justice, democracy and self-determination, calls on the Chinese people and Parliament to play a role in achieving peace and justice in the Middle East.

Head of the Chinese delegation conveyed to Lawzi best wishes and congratulation from the Chinese Lower House Speaker on his reappointment as speaker of the Parliament's Upper House. He stressed his country's support for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council. He added that his country supports the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people and appreciates the efforts being made by His Majesty King Hussein to establish peace in the Middle East and the world.

Independent bloc takes form in Parliament

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In a stated attempt to form a coalition which is independent of any given "ideology or sectarian grouping," eight members of Parliament calling itself the independent bloc was formed earlier this week.

The new bloc intends to approach legislative issues on a case-by-case basis without a defined platform. "Our goal is to serve the people without ascribing to any given ideology or existing political grouping," said one of the newly formed group's members, Deputy Muhammad Alawneh.

The bloc says it intends to deal with each issue according to subject matter and merit. "The aim is not to follow rigid

guidelines when dealing with issues but to be flexible in approaching each issue according to its own merits," Alawneh said. "This way we can rule out a dogmatic approach. The bloc is open for all deputies to join," he added.

The members of the bloc are said to include Muhammad Alawneh, Jamal Sreireh, Atef Al Batoush, Ziad Abu Mahfouz, Mahmoud Huweimeil, Mater Bustanji, Salam Freihat and Awmi Bashir.

Six of the deputies ran as "Islamic" candidates in the Nov. 8 elections. The eight members of the group may vote as a bloc, but they say they would not be rigid in disciplining their colleagues in the group since the bloc's stated aim is to be "flexible in

thought and action."

The absence of a political ideology in binding the coalition could be seen as a distinctive development in Parliament since two other blocs already formed in the Lower House are both based on either a common or similar ideology or theology.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc, which had a common election platform, has 22 members in the Lower House. They were voted into Parliament as not only the largest but as the only bloc due in part to the absence of political parties, which were banned in 1957. The Brotherhood ran on a platform whose main slogan was "Islam is the solution" to all political, economic and social ills. So far they have voted as a bloc on almost all issues

brought before Parliament.

The Brotherhood's support of an Islamist candidate, Youssef Mbeideen, who is not a member of their bloc, for the speakership of the House in November was seen as an initial test of their clout in Parliament. Their candidate was defeated by a vote of 44/36 by Suleiman Arar.

The deciding votes in the speakership elections were cast by the "Democratic Bloc." The coalition, which was formed after the parliamentarians took office, is based on a common or at least similar ideological base. Despite the lack of participation of formally-knit political parties in the elections, members of the Democratic Bloc were considered to be running as independents, nationalists or left-

ists. The coalition membership is still fluctuating. Its present membership is 11 deputies according to the bloc's spokesman, deputy Fakhri Kavar. They have also voted as a bloc on most issues, although they seem to have less rigid voting behaviour when compared to the Brotherhood bloc.

Another bloc dubbed by two Jordanian Arabic dailies as a "national bloc" appears to be in the making. However, deputy Abdullah Nsour, who was reportedly forming the bloc, said that reports publishing names of members were incorrect and that the bloc's platform and membership were not yet decided. "Therefore, I can't say anything at this time," he told the Jordan Times.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ACC YOUTH THANK PRINCE: Jordanian, Iraqi, Egyptian, and Yemeni youths taking part in the first youth gathering of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have expressed gratitude to the efforts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan concerning youth issues in the Arab World. In a cable they sent to Prince Hassan Wednesday, they expressed pride in the achievements Jordan has made under the Hashemite leadership. President of Yarmouk University Dr. Ali Mahafzah Wednesday received the participants of the gathering. Mahafzah explained the developments the university underwent since its establishment and discussed the relationship between university and the society. He added that training courses and lectures are held to meet the society's needs. (Petra)

CARE FOR DISABLED COURSE: Several women in Aqaba Wednesday received certificates of merit after completing a course on caring for the handicapped. The week-long course included lectures, seminars, and educational films on rehabilitation of the handicapped and means to enable them to integrate into society. (Petra)

GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE GRADUATES: Several students Wednesday graduated from the Jordan National Geographic Centre after completing three-year courses in the field of topography. Among the graduates there were students from Qatar and Bahrain. (Petra)

REFRESHER MILITARY COURSE: A new batch of students participating in a refresher military training course Wednesday graduated from the Kafra public security training camp. Speeches were delivered on the importance of training and rehabilitating policemen. The graduates gave sports and military performances during the celebration. (Petra)

POSTER CONTEST RESULTS: The Aramex International Courier's fine arts committee convened Dec. 25 and selected the winners of the Aramex poster contest that was open to all young students of major schools in Amman. After a thorough assessment of all entries, the poster by Lana G. Tseganoff of Alhitha School (CMS) was chosen for the first prize. Ahmad Zaidan of Al Manshal International School and George Nasrawi of Terra Santa School won the second and the third prizes respectively. The contest was organised as part of Aramex's continuing efforts to encourage talents and sports in Jordan. (J.T.)

AMC EXPORT-IMPORT PLAN: The Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) has released its plan for the export of fresh fruits and vegetables for January 1990. According to the plan all kinds of fruits and vegetables can be exported while imports are limited to sage, dates, onion, thyme, and apple. (Petra)

AID FOR ROMANIA: The newly set-up Jordanian Public Committee for Supporting the Romanian People Wednesday made an appeal to the Jordanian people, especially those who studied in Romania, to give a helping hand to the Romanian people. After a public rally held at the Professional Associations Complex the committee appealed to Jordanians to donate blood at the University of Jordan Hospital and present their donations, cash or medical supplies, at the following centres: The Jordan Medical Association, the Jordan Engineers Association or the Jordan Dentists Association. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri and Qasem Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * An art exhibition by Shaber Abu Ghazaleh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A graphic art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by the Middle East Report chief editor on "the Palestinian intifada and the policy of the U.S." at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

Societies help badly treated animals

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It has become a common sight in Amman to see a dead donkey lying on the side of a road, or a cat splattered all over the street. This has become so much part of the everyday scene that one sees while going to work that one does not think much about it. But what does happen to these animals? Who carries them off and where to? Sometimes they are just left to adorn the scenery until they disappear naturally by decay.

However, there are people who make it their duty to see that animals are treated humanely. Such societies exist all over the world and include the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa (SPAN), and the Brooke Hospital for Animals originally established in Egypt.

Such societies are primarily concerned with the well-being of animals and send representatives to all over the world. It is for such societies that Kan Zaman hosted a charity gala this month. It was to aid SPANA and the Brooke Hospital for Animals in Petra. Like most charity events, this bazaar offered its guests the usual Christmas gifts and games for both children and adults.

'Ignorance'

Chris Larter, representative of both societies, displayed pictures of animals being treated by SPANA and the Brooke Hospital in Jordan. The former was established in 1923 by Briton Frances Kate and her daughter. The latter was founded in the 1930s in Egypt by Dorothy Brooke.

"Both societies now operating in Jordan aim at treating injured animals in the Kingdom. Dressers Mazin Qaisi and Khalid Salman, and I offer help to people who cannot afford to take their animals to clinics," Larter said. She asserted that 90 per cent of animal injuries occurring in Jordan were due to the owners' ignorance. She had a lot of unpleasant stories to tell and there was one in particular which was a common occurrence. Donkey and horse owners tend to tie their animals with wire because the animal eats away at the rope and runs away. To avoid this animals are secured tightly together, or individually with pieces of wire.

Common wires are twisted together to make a thick rope-like contraption which is wound around the horse's muzzle. Consequently, a horse has its muzzle scraped raw. Other everyday practices include tying donkeys by the foot to a stump or tree and the metal or rope is tied so tightly that it usually rubs and eats away at the animal's leg. As a result, infection such as gangrene sets in.

Attitudes

The attitudes of people towards help offered by animal societies were tinged with scepticism, according to Larter. "At first people thought we were a bit nutty, but when they saw that we meant them no harm they started to come to us," she said.

SPAN operates a mobile clinic. Larter herself got involved in this society through driving horses to show-jumping competitions. Not a veterinarian by profession, she became something close to one due to her experience with animals. So, along with her assistants, she makes her rounds looking for animals in distress.

Qaisi and Salman were both sent to England, Tunisia, and Morocco to specialise in animal care. Every month they and Larter check on animals in four regions of the Kingdom.

Week one is spent in Salt, the second week in Wadi Al Seer and neighbouring villages, the third week in the Jordan Valley, and the last week in Ajloun and Madaba. Larter goes to the Brooke clinic in Petra every two days. Many horses there are in bad condition due to maltreatment, she says. She explains that the young boys owning the horses often gallop them at full speed to find customers. When the horses are sweaty and out of breath, their owners give them cold water to drink. Hence a horse gets what is known as colic (pain in the stomach).

Means of livelihood

Salman said that to some people an animal is the sole means of livelihood. In the agricultural sector in particular a lot of farmers depend on livestock for plowing the land. Salman added that these people, most of the time, do not have the money to treat an animal's injuries, "for they themselves do not even have shoes to wear."

"If we see a donkey having rough textured material on its back as a substitute for a saddle, we advise softer material,"

Salman said. "More often than not, the owner will say that he will do it, and end up not doing it. So we provide instant help by giving blankets. Sometimes our help comes too late, and the donkey's back is rubbed raw and infection has already set in."

Qaisi said that a lot of the animals are simply exhausted. "During the summer they are driven to work from sunrise till sunset," he asserted. Owners are advised to cut the task shorter, but when one depends on a sole donkey for his livelihood, one cannot afford to stop, Qaisi explained.

A tradition which causes animals a lot of pain is:

If a horse is sick, it is branded on its back with a sizzling hot iron. The belief is that this will take the evil out of the animal's body, and thus it will recover. The consequences of such actions lead to intense pain for the horse, sometimes paralysis, or even death.

Larter has been in the country since 1986, and still she does not understand some of the phenomena that she sees. She is very much upset to see children throwing stones at horses and at baby donkeys in particular.

She recounted an incident outside her window early one morning: Some boys were beating a donkey so, she went out and told them to stop it. The next morning she saw them again, but with the donkey lying on the ground. On reaching the boys she found that they had cut the animal's ears off, there was a circus going on nearby, and the boys wanted to feed the lions. She immediately telephoned Dr. Basel Arafat, the director of the project. The animal was old, and there was no refuge where it could be put — it was put to sleep.

Refuge for animals

Many animals that are either too old, or injured in such a way that they cannot work are put to sleep. Qaisi explained that they are working on setting-up refuge for such animals. But funds are needed, and revenues from this initial charity event are hopefully going to help. Proceeds will be going into buying collars, bridles and the like. The Brooke Hospital, strongly supported by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, had earlier started its activities with a fundraising horse show.

Cabinet approves Dead Sea tourist hotel project

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Tuesday approved a recommendation made by the investment promotion committee on setting up a tourist hotel in the Dead Sea area, with a capital of JD 550,000. The proposed hotel would have 194 rooms.

At a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Madad Badran, the cabinet also approved three other projects including cinema production, producing printing ink and producing roof ceramics. The cabinet considered these projects as endorsed economic projects.

The cabinet also took a decision exempting the electronic switchboard and its components at Aqaba hospital from all customs and any additional duties.

During Tuesday's session, the cabinet decided to compose the Jordanian delegations to a meeting on crime control to be held in Vienna under the auspices of the United Nations Feb. 5 and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) board of governors, which will be held in Rome Jan. 24.

The Jordanian delegation to the Vienna meeting on combating crime will be headed by the Public Security Department Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuhied. The delegation to IFAD meeting will be headed by the Ministry of Agriculture secretary-general.

IFAD's board of governors will discuss a number of issues, including environmental protection.

More cooperative spirit at New York which is characteristic of the United Nations today. Three factors now stand out: Wider acceptance of the need for global solutions to global problems; greater readiness to abandon confrontation for cooperation; and the cooperative attitudes and policies of the Soviet Union.

Paradoxically, one of the main strengths of the council is the veto power of the five permanent members. It has ensured that the council is a serious organisation, and it has also ensured that genuine international consensus is required before action by the international community as a whole. Such consensus has made possible the creation of agreed frameworks for dealing with particular problems: for example Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East; Resolution 435 on Namibia, and Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq war.

Following is a summary of his lecture: The Security Council is the most effective part of the United Nations system. Its activities reflect the evolution of the United Nations itself: the East-West polarity which led to paralysis; the North-South polarity which was little better; and now the

British diplomat underlines U.N. Security Council role

more cooperative spirit at New York which is characteristic of the United Nations today. Three factors now stand out: Wider acceptance of the need for global solutions to global problems; greater readiness to abandon confrontation for cooperation; and the cooperative attitudes and policies of the Soviet Union.

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Recently the five permanent members have at last begun to work together in unprecedented fashion to fulfil their responsibilities under the charter. Without them the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and the Namibia settlement would have been impossible. But the five cannot attempt, even if they wished to do so, to run the Security Council. Together the non-aligned countries exercise a

British diplomat underlines U.N. Security Council role

sixth veto. Cooperation between the permanent and the non-permanent members is indispensable.

For the future let us hope that the five can turn their attention to the Middle East, and generally extend their agenda. In the past the negative power of the five was vital. In the future the positive power of the five may be still more important.

The council should also pay more attention to preventive diplomacy (in other words to anticipate rather than react to international crises); it should allow greater scope for the secretary general; and it should develop its peace-keeping functions.

It may even have to develop peace-keeping enforcement as well. At a time when conflicts in one area can rapidly become conflicts in another area, the world needs the best controlling mechanism that can be achieved. The Security Council, like the world it is meant to protect, is the only one we have got.

Crispin is considered an authority on climate change and is an unofficial advisor on the subject to the British government. He has a long history in the diplomatic corps, including chief of cabinet to the president of the European Commission and ambassador to Mexico, and has been at the U.N. post since 1987.

PLO

(Continued from page 1)

officials. For the PLO, the confrontation with the U.S. entered "a critical stage" as Palestinian officials privately blamed U.S. pressures for the failure of most Arab foreign ministers to show up. The message, from the PLO point of view, was clear: "Washington was seeking to undermine the PLO's standing and was still seeking a substitute for the PLO."

"After one year of dialogue, the Americans are still looking for the representative of the Palestinian people. With whom have they been talking for the last year? With ghosts? asked a frustrated Arafat. "If it suits them they can keep on looking," he told this writer shortly before the PLO delivered its reply to Bar's plan.

What frustrated the PLO the most, was not that they no longer had a direct channel to Washington, but that the organisation was "not allowed" to play a public role. "It was not bad enough that we could not directly convey our reply to Washington but the worst was that we were not allowed to even claim that we had a reply," a PLO official said in reference to Washington's repeated announcements that it was waiting for an "Egyptian response."

Thus, from the Palestinian viewpoint, instead of the dialogue being a starting point for relations between the U.S. and the PLO, Washington is aiming to have a third party (i.e. Egypt) to represent the PLO one year after starting the dialogue. "They (the Americans) can impose channels and avoid a direct dialogue, but if they think that any party can bring a Palestinian delegation to the negotiating table without PLO approval all they will be doing is just trying," a Palestinian official said.

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Hard earned confidence

THE GOVERNMENT of Mudar Badran is moving fast to translate its promises into deeds and thus swiftly earning its way to win the cherished and coveted vote of confidence of the Parliament on Dec. 30. The bold decision to phase out 50 per cent of the Martial Law regime in the country and promising to phase out the remaining parts is the best proof yet that Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his team are more than serious to lift martial law in the shortest time possible. There is now an irrefutable evidence that the grip of martial law regime over the country and people is on the way out in a dramatic yet irrevocable style. The people of Jordan have now a firm reason to rejoice over Tuesday's decision of the cabinet and to begin the new year with renewed confidence that their country is, after all, heading to operational democracy in the most concrete and meaningful manner.

Equally important and relevant is the decision of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government to humanise the eventual 1988 decision to sever administrative and legal ties with West Bank. As hitherto interpreted and applied, that giant national decision became a big burden on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and gave cause for the false belief that some of the implications of that decision have weakened the steadfastness and resolve of the Palestinians under occupation to wage their intifada for as long as necessary. As this negative construction of the 1988 decision could not be further from the truth, Prime Minister Badran and his cabinet moved fast to examine ways and means to rectify the negative applications of the 1988 decision and in such a way as to humanise its effects. As the peoples of the West Bank and the East Bank were, are and will always be one people, the decision of the government to rectify all the shortcomings of the 1988 nationalistic decision is a blessing that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will surely appreciate and glorify.

Acting in these directions the government of Mudar Badran has given the country and people the finest example of Arab nationalism that is unimpeded by self-defeating trends of sectionalism or factionalism or even confessionism. Again what better way is there for the country to begin the new year and what better way is there to reward our struggling people in the occupied territories than to phase out martial law regime from their midst and give the West Bank and its people a more breathing space from which to continue to wage their intifada till liberation is achieved.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Wednesday hailed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to limit the jurisdiction of the military court and to grant more powers to civilian courts. The paper said that the decision in addition to the formation of a committee to study the humanitarian and personal implications on the Palestinian people resulting from severing ties with the West Bank has been welcomed by the Jordanian people and the representatives in Parliament. The paper said that with these decisions, the government has thus responded favourably to the Parliament members' demands and went a long way towards completely ending martial law in Jordan. Indeed the creation of a committee to help deal with the consequences of Jordan's severing of ties with the West Bank is bound to provide further support and backing for the Palestinian people, and enhance their steadfastness in the face of Israeli atrocities and repression, the paper added. It said that the government has proved to be committed to the promises it had made to Parliament, and for this it deserves appreciation and support. The paper said that the Jordanian people can only express their pride in what is happening in their country towards bolstering the path for democracy and freedom.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the ongoing rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus, and says that it is beneficial in more than one respect despite the fact that the leaderships in Syria and Egypt hold divergent views on Arab affairs. Nishwan Rimaawi notes that Syria and Egypt do not see eye to eye over dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), over the Middle East peace process and in their relations with Iraq. While Damascus seeks to convene an international Middle East conference, Cairo advocates ample preparations for such conference, through a series of preliminary steps that should be taken to pave the way for the same conference, says the writer. Rimaawi believes though that Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement will eventually help diffuse tension in Lebanon and lead to a permanent settlement. He says based on bilateral cooperation during the disturbances in Lebanon of 1988, the two countries can work out a formula that would end the conflict among the warring parties and preserve the country's territorial integrity and independence. Furthermore, Rimaawi says, the two countries can contribute positively towards bolstering solidarity among the Arab countries and can recreate a united front in the face of Israel's intransigence.

Sawt Al Shabab daily stressed the fact that as long as the Arabs do not possess sufficient power to stand up to Israel, they can not regain their rights and ensure the freedom of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. The paper said the fact that the Palestine problem remains without solution, is largely due to the weakness in the Arab ranks and the continued drain on Arab resources due to internal conflicts and lack of coordination among Arab leaders. The paper referred to a declaration made recently by the PLO in which it stated openly that Washington constituted the main obstacle in the path of Middle East peace. The paper said that though this declaration came late yet it is right and should open the eyes of the Arab countries to the fact that they should not count on any of the world powers to help them regain their right but should rather rely on their intrinsic force.

Bush faces choices in newest Panama dilemma

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Manuel Antonio Noriega's decision to seek asylum at the Vatican's embassy in Panama City forces President George Bush into the thicket of diplomacy and international law in pursuit of the deposed dictator.

"Now it's up to the lawyers and the diplomats," summed up Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, whose troops tried out failed to capture the elusive dictator in more than four days of searching.

When Noriega drove up to the Vatican embassy in Panama City on Christmas Eve, Bush accomplished a central goal of the invasion he ordered last week: Removing the indicted drug trafficker from all power in Panama.

But how Bush, Panama's U.S. backed-government, the Vatican and other nations handle the next step could determine not only Noriega's fate, but the future of the strategically placed isthmus for years to come.

U.S. interests appear to be best served by Noriega's speedy removal from the Papal nunciature, where he is protected by diplomatic immunity and by the spotlight of international attention. As long as he stays, attention could be diverted from U.S. efforts to restore order to the devastated country.

The White House said Sunday it still hopes to bring Noriega to justice. He was indicted in Florida on federal charges in 1988.

But the Vatican, which has offered haven to Noriega's foes in recent months, would have to reverse centuries of practice and diplomatic principle to hand the general to the United States against his will.

Asked if a simple turnover were foreseeable, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said, "well, I don't think so. There

isn't an extradition treaty or anything."

Bush, who has held several diplomatic jobs in his career, presumably understands the complexities well. The United States has been sheltering Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi in the U.S. embassy in Peking for many months despite Chinese demands to hand him over.

Bush could ask the government of U.S.-backed President Guillermo Endara to demand Noriega be handed over by the Vatican. But Endara has already said his country is forbidden by its constitution to extradite any Panamanian citizen to the United States.

Another possible solution is to remove Noriega from Panama to a third country. The United States set a precedent for such a scenario when it negotiated with Noriega in 1988 after he was indicted in Florida, and again as recently as October.

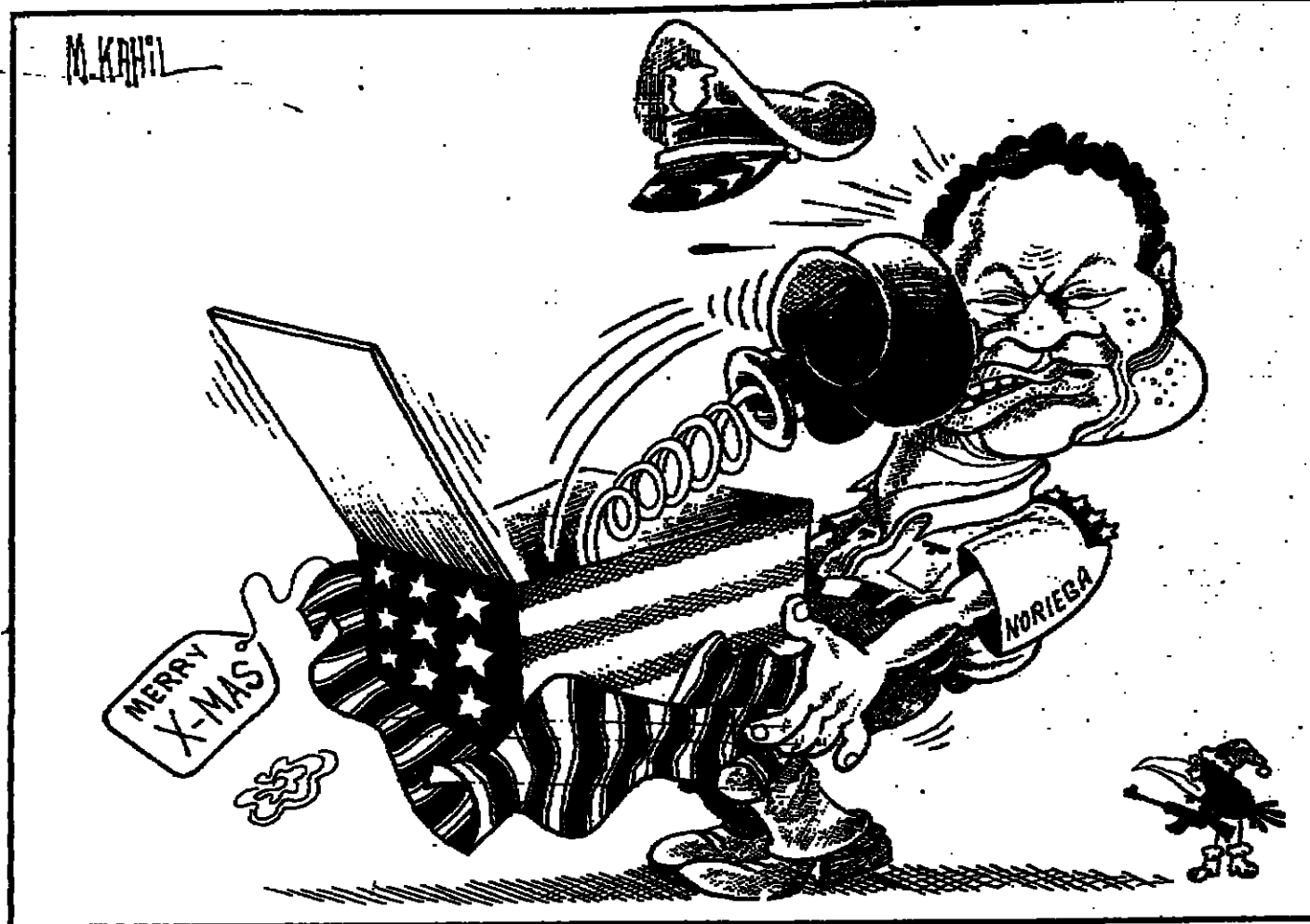
State Department officials were apparently prepared to drop their demand for bringing Noriega to the United States if he agreed to resign his posts. Later, the U.S. upped its ante and demanded that Noriega leave Panama.

Spain, Cuba and the Dominican Republic — where Noriega has a daughter and some real estate — have been mentioned as possible exiles. Until now, Noriega has refused to go.

But in any deal Noriega works out, he would likely demand a promise that he not be extradited to the United States.

That could create a problem with Spain which has a 1970 extradition treaty with the United States.

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said Monday that Spain would not be a convenient



place for Noriega to seek asylum because he would have to be turned over to U.S. authorities on drug-related charges.

An exile closer to home could prove troublesome, if it left Noriega close enough to foment resistance to the new Panamanian government among former loyalists of his regime.

"Part of the deal would have to be that he promises not to interfere in Panamanian politics," said James Goodby, a professor of diplomacy at Georgetown Uni-

versity. "The farther away he goes, the better."

Even if Noriega were brought to the United States, other complications could stand in the way of a trial.

Raymond Takiff, Noriega's attorney in Miami, said prosecution would result in sensitive information being divulged about Noriega's long association with the CIA. Federal prosecutors familiar with the case say they believe a trial could go forward.

The nature of the sensitive information could include material relating to Bush himself.

According to Kevin Buckley, who is writing a book for Simon and Schuster about Noriega, the deposed Panamanian leader and Bush first met in 1976. Bush headed the CIA at the time, and Buckley said Noriega commanded his country's intelligence services.

In 1983, Bush visited Noriega in Panama and reportedly hinted that if the general helped the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contra rebels, the United States would

turn a blind eye to his drug profit laundering, Buckley said. Bush has denied making any such promise.

Noriega also met in 1985 aboard a yacht with former White House aide Oliver North to discuss help for the contras, according to Buckley.

"HE (Noriega) knows where a lot of skeletons are buried in Central America and some of them may be very close to Bush's office," said William Schneider, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Iraq gets around high-tech ban to boost missile industry

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Iraq's drive to build an advanced arms industry is accelerating, much of it due to high technology acquired despite Western efforts to curb a Middle East missile buildup.

Iraq announced on Dec. 8 that it had launched a 48-ton, three-stage rocket capable of putting a satellite in space, and had tested two surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometres.

The announcement took analysts by surprise and heightened speculation that the region could soon be seeing a new missile arms race.

Industrialised states, seeking to curb missile proliferation in the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, have sought to curb the sale of sensitive equipment to Third World countries. Affected by the curbs are state-of-the-art computers, guidance systems, heat-resistant materials such as carbon-carbon and computer-controlled machinery.

But Iraq, like some other nations, has exploited loopholes in controls imposed by the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Japan in a 1987 agreement known as the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Along with its legitimate purchases, analysts say, Iraq has evaded technology restrictions by seeking help from other Third World countries with advanced

military technology and by forging close ties with Western companies that possess the technology Iraq wants. Several investigations are under way of Western companies that allegedly made deals with Iraq in violation of export restrictions.

Iraq, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Libya are all missile powers now. All except Libya have weapons capable of hitting Israel.

With superpower detente diminishing the threat of a U.S.-Soviet conflict, analysts fear the most dangerous missile threat now is posed by spread in the Third World of rockets capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads.

One of the key weapons in President Saddam Hussein's effort to make Iraq a major regional power is a two-stage ballistic missile, the Condor 2, capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads to 1,000 kilometres. Iraq has been widely reported to be developing it with Argentina and Egypt since 1984.

"Iraq's arms industry is quite advanced now and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is certainly determined to build his missiles," said Hans-Heino Kopietz, a Middle East analyst with London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"From what we've been able to determine, the Iraqis are capable of producing Condor 2, but they still lack a reliable guidance system. They've been trying to get one from the Germans," he said in a telephone interview.

Some analysts believe Iraq may be able to test fire a Condor 2 prototype in the next year or two.

Israel claims Iraq already has an accurate guidance system. Even so, one Israeli source told the Associated Press earlier this year that Condor 2 was "a long way from being deployed."

Meanwhile, the Iraqis are negotiating with Brazil's space agency for a \$50-million satellite technology deal, analysts say. Ozilio Silva, director of the Brazilian agency and a former president of Brazil's Embraer Aircraft Manufacturer, visited Baghdad earlier this year and a team of Iraqi scientists was in Rio de Janeiro last May.

The French, Iraq's second biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union, sent an aerospace industry team to Baghdad in November to discuss cooperation. Diplomats in Baghdad said this included high technology transfer.

Iraq's drive to build up its own defence industry, like Iran's was spurred by the eight-year Gulf war. It was the first recent conflict in which the belligerents hammered each others' cities with missiles, a nightmare vision of future Third World wars.

Until recently, most military analysts scoffed at Iraq's claims it could produce advanced weapons systems.

But the Iraqis unveiled a wide range of technology at the Baghdad arms fair in April. Among the weapons on display were the Lion of Babylon tank, a locally assembled version of the Soviet

T-72 that included systems developed by Iraqi engineers, and several tactical missiles apparently modelled on Soviet systems.

Iraqi officials have defended Baghdad's drive to develop its own arms industry, citing the threat from Iran despite last year's ceasefire in the Gulf war.

"Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, declared in New York on Dec. 14: 'We have to take into consideration for our own defence purposes that our country is still being threatened by Iran. We're in a situation of no war and no peace.'

"We have to do whatever we can to provide the necessary defensive means to defend our country if the other side thinks again of the renewal of hostilities."

Iraqi officials decline to discuss Iraq's purchasing network, but say Baghdad will get hold of the

technology it needs anywhere it can.

In August, the U.S. Federal Reserve discovered that the Atlanta, Georgia, branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro had extended unauthorised credit of nearly \$3 billion to Iraq since February 1988. Baghdad received as much as \$1.7 billion worth of credit from the bank before the affair was uncovered. Italy's treasury minister, Guido Carli, has confirmed that some of the credits were used to purchase strategic materials and military-related equipment.

Western intelligence officials believe much of the sensitive equipment went to the top-security Saddam 16 Research Complex south of Baghdad, where work on Condor 2 has been carried out. The complex is also believed to be used for chemical weapons development.

There are other research and development facilities at Al Anbar, west of Baghdad, where the satellite rocket was launched on Dec. 5, and at Mosul in the mountainous north. A major military industries complex is located at Taji, north of Baghdad.

Western officials and diplomats said the acquisitions were made largely through a European-based consortium of 16 companies based in Zug, Switzerland, and Monte Carlo.

The group organised procurement of missile technology and components for Iraq's technical corps for special projects, known as Techcorp.

It was established two years ago within the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation headed by Gen. Hussein Kamel, Hussein's son-in-law. He has overall charge of developing Iraq's arms industry.

Israel awaits fruits of Gorbachev's perestroika

By Gail Fitzer
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, which has already changed the face of Europe, may soon transform the character of Israel through a mass exodus of Soviet Jews.

Israelis anxiously await a wave of up to 300,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants over the next three years. More than 2,000 arrived in November — the same number as in the whole of 1988.

The influx could have a huge impact on the demography and politics of Israel and the occupied territories. Israel's population is only four million, including 650,000 Arabs.

"There is no question that hundreds of thousands will arrive," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month. "The number of Jews who will want to leave the Soviet Union will soon reach 1,000,000."

Former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky said Israel was witnessing the biggest exodus of Jews since thequisition exiled them from Spain in 1492.

Government officials say the monthly immigration figure could double early next year when direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv begin.

Faced by what the Israeli media describes as anti-semitism and a deteriorating economy, Soviet Jews are taking advantage of the Kremlin's most liberal emigration policies since the early 1970s to leave in increasing numbers.

"It is a very hard life in the Soviet Union for everyone, but for Jews especially," said Zenovy Nisenbaum, an electrical engineer from Odessa.

his Jewish wife to escape the hardships of the Soviet Union but will try to emigrate to the United States.

"This is the only country I can come to. It is impossible to live in the Soviet Union now. Soviet society is seriously ill and in the future it will become more dangerous," Petrov said.

Until October the vast majority of Soviet Jews headed for the United States in search of a more peaceful and prosperous life. But new U.S. quotas limit the number allowed entry to 40,000 per year, leaving them no choice but Israel.

Housing Minister David Levy has proposed settling the Soviet immigrants among the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories who have been waging a revolt for two years.

Hardline Israeli leaders have contended Israel could keep the occupied territories with a wave of Jewish immigration that would balance the Arab population.

"It goes without saying that if you add half a million Jews who are not expected from the normal birth rate, it has an enormous demographic impact," said a senior official with the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency who declined to be named.

Palestinians are concerned Israel will move Soviet Jews into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Government officials say the immigrants are free to settle where they like.

Most Soviet Jews become hard-line nationalists on arrival in the Jewish state. This could push a right-leaning electorate even further towards tougher stances on territorial "concessions."

"I support Israel's movement against Palestinians. I can say (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat is a bandit and I support the politics of Shamir," said Sasha T...

from Kiev.

"You should know that everybody sitting here has right-wing views," he added, pointing to 228 Soviet Jews who arrived on a single flight from Budapest.

Soviet Jews, mostly highly-educated professionals, are also expected to have an impact on Israel's economy and culture.

Arriving mainly on flights from Budapest and Bucharest, the newcomers are greeted at Tel Aviv airport by Israelis dancing the Jewish hora and singing Hebrew songs.

Government workers hand out bouquets and distribute food and refreshments while the jet-lagged newcomers wait up to seven hours for processing of immigration papers.

Officials of the Jewish Agency expect a bureaucratic nightmare as the number coming to Israel rises but say no one will be turned away. They predict up to 300,000 arrivals over the next three years.

Rejecting criticism that the country is ill-prepared for the mass immigration, Peretz insisted there would be enough housing but conceded more jobs would have to be found.

In November a government committee formulated a \$2 billion plan to absorb 100,000 Jews over the next three years but officials say it must already be revised.

The money is to pay for building 25,000 new apartments and renovating 5,000 others, job training and creating new employment, education and infrastructure.

By Mariam M. Shahin

More sensitive steps will undoubtedly be made sooner or later and with an increase in political awareness globally about the Palestine question, the communities assertiveness is bound to grow soon," says the Aiyeh.

Abraham Father Ayad believes that South Americans are aware of the situation of the Palestinian cause "they are too deeply in debt to worry about their own economic power to be able to afford to speak out strongly on their own. Only truly independent people can afford to speak of justice." As the world welcomes the beginning of a new decade with open arms, Father Ayad is preparing to travel to South America to distribute the newly designed Palestinian identification cards which are yet another step towards the Palestinian identity. "I am sure a good many part of Father Ayad's conviction that at 79 seemed is still very much a part of Father Ayad's conviction. As a European asked him once amid of this priest from Palestine that he does not speak of conquest or of glory only of a longing for justice and peace."

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Mubarak issues grim warning on state control

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak, in a grim warning underlining Egypt's deepening economic crisis, has said it must not make the same mistake as Eastern European countries by depending too heavily on state control.

He also said Egypt's problems could be exacerbated if foreign aid was diverted from Cairo to the Eastern bloc.

"We have the example of states which did everything and they have reached the terrible line of danger. They are faltering now in Eastern Europe because the state used to do everything," Mubarak told reporters Tuesday.

Despite moves in the last two decades to boost private enterprise, Egypt has one of the biggest public sectors outside the socialist bloc and the kind of centralised planning more typical

of Moscow than of a mixed economy.

"With the present international changes, the time will come when aid could be gradually reduced," Mubarak said. "That is why we should depend on ourselves in development and the private sector should invest its money in Egypt."

His remarks were in the latest in a series of appeals for greater efficiency amid signs that Egypt's economy is sinking deeper and deeper into crisis.

Cairo stopped most repayments on its foreign debt 18 months ago, making only those essential payments needed to keep credit lines open for food and other imports.

Economic analysts say the government has barely enough money to meet even these payments or maintain supplies of its

most vital import, wheat, which is needed to keep the people supplied with subsidised bread.

Egypt desperately needs an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which would enable it to reschedule its foreign debt, relieve creditor pressure and attract fresh investment. Total foreign debt is estimated at \$50 billion.

But no prospect of an IMF accord is in sight and no date has been fixed for a further round of formal negotiations.

Meanwhile, Egypt is watching helplessly as its potential donor countries pledge fresh aid to Eastern Europe.

"There is a sudden realisation they are not going to get all they want from the European Community," one diplomat said.

"Mubarak understands there is a problem. There is a feeling that



Hosni Mubarak

they have got to do something. But there is not actually any sign that they are taking any concrete steps," he added.

Mubarak has appealed for an export drive, reduced dependency on the public sector and a strengthening of the private sector. But the government has yet to come up with clear plans.

Argentina faces hyperinflation

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Six months after beating back hyperinflation, Argentines fear it is returning to haunt them.

On Tuesday the austral currency dived 20.8 per cent against the dollar from a 1,355 opening to a 1,710 close. Time-deposit interest rates remained high at a monthly 105 per cent.

"These wide fluctuations don't reflect reality. We warned it would take a while for the markets to settle," Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez told reporters Tuesday, but businessmen and analysts were unimpressed.

"We've jumped overboard. We're heading straight towards hyperinflation," said a leading economist for one of Argentina's largest food industry organisations.

"I heard it from every businessman I spoke to today. They had no doubts," said the economist who asked not to be named.

"This morning when we saw what the markets were doing we just stopped sales," the president for Latin America of a European liquor and beverage company said.

"If we do sell next week our prices will have to go up around

100 per cent," he added.

The austral's plunge Tuesday was a rude awakening for Argentines after a long Christmas weekend. The previous week the austral held firm against the dollar, buoyed by a President Carlos Menem cabinet reshuffle and new economic measures.

Market turmoil had forced the Dec. 11 resignation of Nestor Rapanelli as economy minister. During his five-month tenure he had brought inflation down to a monthly 5.6 per cent in October after two months of hyperinflation that in July reached a 196 per cent, a record monthly rate.

But by November markets lost confidence in Rapanelli's ability to carry out the Peronist government's reform programme and the austral began its tumble against the dollar.

In a bold move last week, Gonzalez freed exchange markets, salary negotiations, lifted price controls and appealed to businessmen and bankers to behave responsibly.

"Last week's calm made no sense. It was a result of a goodwill agreement between the government and the big exporting firms," economist Walter Graziano told Reuters.

Japan current account plunges

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's current account and trade surplus plunged in November for the ninth straight month as imports surged, and economists said the trend would continue early next year.

The surplus in the current account, which measures trade in both goods and services, plunged 37 per cent in November from a year earlier to \$4.26 billion, the government said Wednesday.

The surplus in merchandise trade tumbled to \$4.49 billion, down 41 per cent.

"In the coming months, the reduction of the surpluses will certainly continue," said economist Soichi Enkyo at the Bank of Tokyo. He said the strength of the economy and a higher yen would boost imports further while curbing exports.

Exports slipped three per cent from a year earlier to \$21.61 billion in November, while imports climbed 17 per cent to \$17.11 billion.

A Finance Ministry official also predicted the surpluses would keep shrinking in the months ahead. Japan is under intense

pressure from its trading partners, particularly the United States, to reduce the surpluses.

Economists said slowing foreign demand for Japanese cars was a major factor behind the decline in exports.

In addition, many Japanese firms are looking more to the local market and away from exports because of Japan's strong domestic demand, Enkyo added.

He predicted the yen would rise in coming months due to a narrowing of the difference between interest rates in the United States and Japan, which raised its key discount rate by a half-point Monday to 4.25 per cent.

A stronger yen tends to make Japanese goods less competitive abroad and encourage Japanese to import more.

The government also said Wednesday Japan's current account surplus with the United States fell in the first half of 1989 but its trade surplus widened.

The bilateral current account surplus dropped to \$2.98 billion from \$23.69 billion a year earlier, but the trade surplus rose to \$24.78 billion from \$23.61 billion.

PIA reports on profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — PIA made a profit of rupees 970 million (\$45.5 million) during 1988-1989 compared with rupees 823 million in the previous year, an increase of rupees 146.5 million.

PIA also plans to purchase about a dozen aircraft of various categories during the next six years. At present it has a fleet of 39 aircraft, which would increase to 50 after the purchase. PIA is also planning to replace its Fokker-27 and B-747-200 planes with more modern aircraft in the future.

Immediate measures have also been taken to improve the standard of services aboard PIA flights.

Initially under the new

arrangements passengers of economy class will be served drinks after being welcomed at the aircraft and will be given hot and cold towels to provide a comfortable atmosphere. Welcome drink trophy will also be introduced for first class passengers.

Good meals will be provided to both economy and first class passengers with additional menus, while the chef will be present on some of the flights to taste and examine the meals on the spot. A custom service officer will review the general performance during the flight and will find out the priorities of the passengers so that planning for future improvement can be done.

Gulf industry to lead 1990s economic growth

BAHRAIN (R) — Industrial growth will lead Gulf economies in the 1990s, but a regional development strategy is needed to eliminate duplication and promote complementary projects, a senior Gulf economist said Wednesday.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said in a monthly report that, despite the advantages of cheap energy and low-priced feedstock from petroleum and gas plants, there were many barriers to rapid industrial growth in the region.

"The challenge facing industrial development in the Gulf during the 1990s is ability to produce and sell competitively, both in the domestic markets as well as abroad," Azzam said.

"The GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries need therefore to come up with a coherent industrial strategy for the region as a whole, that eliminates duplication and promotes complementary industrial projects."

The GCC groups Bahrain,

Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The six states have a total of 5,405 factories and industrial plants.

The manufacturing sector's contribution to their GDP rose from around 5.5 per cent in 1980 to 9.0 per cent in 1987 and is targeted to reach 15 per cent in the mid-1990s, Azzam said.

Kuwait and Bahrain top the present ratios with 13.7 per cent and 12.3 per cent respectively.

Azzam said downstream petroleum and petrochemical industries offered the best opportunities for growth, along with projects based on mineral resources and import substitution for consumer industries, particularly of processed food.

Synthetic or assembling industries, which have large markets in the Arab World, engineering industries and projects serving defence or oil sectors would also be viable.

But he said obstacles to industry included the high cost of some

imported products, the small local market, limited commercial bank lending and limited protection by the Gulf tariff system.

Commercial bank credit to Gulf industry declined to 2.6 billion in 1988 from 2.9 billion in 1985 while the percentage share of commercial lending to GCC manufacturing sectors fell to 4.6 per cent from 5.9 per cent.

Lack of management expertise and technical skills among the national population, limited technological research and comprehensive industrial legal codes were also barriers to growth, Azzam said.

On the positive side, a non-unionised imported labour force, wide-ranging industrial incentives and subsidies, ample capital resources and political stability helped Gulf industry.

With a common external tariff and free trade agreement set to be implemented within the six member states by 1992, a GCC common market could soon become a reality, Azzam said.

CBJ sets rates for export credits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced Wednesday that it had set the interest rate at eight per cent for credits advanced to Jordanian exporters of Jordanian products to Arab countries. According to a memorandum sent by the CBJ to the Chamber of Commerce in reply to a letter on guarantees on exports, the eight per cent interest rate will apply only to exports to Arab countries with whom Jordan has already entered into agreements. The rate will be six per cent for exports to other countries and this difference is aimed at encouraging exports and open new markets, the memorandum said.

Heating oil prices surge

NEW YORK (AP) — Heating oil futures prices surged Tuesday in the wake of a weekend explosion at an Exxon Corporation refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, boosting prices and raising prospects of further spot oil shortages.

The accident at the plant, which normally produces some 17 million liters of heating oil daily, aggravated a price increase caused by the record-setting cold snap that has hit much of the nation. Supplies of home heating oil already were tight before the explosion and the accelerated demand has pushed retail prices as high as \$1 a gallon in some areas.

Wholesale prices also shot higher, as reflected by oil futures. Heating oil contracts for January delivery jumped 10.74 cents from Friday to close at 92.48 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Other contract months, which are subject to daily price limits, rose from 1.75 cents to 2.00 cents a gallon. One gallon equals 3.8 litres.

Crude oil and gasoline futures also rose. Traders said the price rise was exacerbated by thin trading volume, because many participants had not returned yet from long holiday weekends. Markets were closed Monday for Christmas.

The February contract for West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark U.S. crude oil, rose 62 cents to close at \$21.91 per 42-gallon barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Unleaded regular gasoline for January advanced 5.49 cents to 69.94 cents a gallon.

"There's no stopping prices for the short term until the temperatures warm up," said Dillard Spriggs, president of Petroleum Analysis Ltd. in New York.

Exxon, Mobil Corp. and Star Enterprise, a Texaco Inc. affiliate, reported last week that some of their terminals in the U.S. northeast had suffered temporary oil shortages and customers were sent to other facilities or forced to wait for new supplies.

Foreigners seeking high wages worry Japanese

TOKYO (AP) — In kitchens, factories and construction sites across Japan, foreigners are doing jobs that Japanese no longer want, shaking up a homogeneous people accustomed to different races.

Japan's growing reputation in the Third World as a land of economic opportunity is attracting workers from Pakistan and Bangladesh who can earn as much in a day as they do in weeks or even months back home.

Chinese eager to make their fortune sail in posing as Vietnamese in hopes of gaining political asylum, and Africans ignore local prejudice against blacks to earn money to send home.

Most of the foreigners — estimates of their numbers range from 100,000 to 200,000 — work here illegally. In addition, tens of thousands of foreign students on temporary visas hold jobs. Together, they have an impact far beyond their numbers on the 120 million Japanese.

Tokyo commuters used to seeing only Japanese faces and hearing one language on trains now appear uneasy at seeing occasional black and dark brown faces and hearing strange tongues.

Heavy television coverage of boat people and foreign workers is bringing the issue into the living rooms of millions. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese are working side by side with foreigners for the first time.

Some press comment has been thoughtful. "Is it possible for us to enjoy such affluence separate from the rest of the world, especially the people of neighbouring countries?" the Mainichi Shinbun newspaper said in an editorial.

But other writers, noting the one billion people in neighbouring China, have raised visions of aliens pouring into the country. Letters to the editor pages have been flooded with fears of cultural invasion, crime and overcrowding.

A 2½-hour Japanese television programme on foreign workers last May brought calls from 1,000 viewers — 20 times the usual number for such programmes, a

press report said. For every person arguing to let in foreign workers, two said it was a bad idea.

"Foreign workers will destroy Japan," reads the subtitle of a book by critic Kanji Nishio. The book, with a large padlock pictured on the cover, is called "Recommendation for a Closed Country (Sakoku) in Labour," using the same word that Shoguns used to ban foreigners from Japanese shores for centuries.

Generally favouring entry for foreign workers are small businessmen, thousands of whom have gone bankrupt because of a labour shortage. For part-time jobs in such fields as construction and restaurants, opening outer-number available workers three or four to one.

Owners of small labour-intensive factories have deluged refugee authorities with job offers for the boat people, even as mass deportations are being arranged. Japan has agreed to resettle 10,000 Indo-Chinese refugees, but unskilled workers from China or other countries are subject to expulsion.

"If it weren't for these foreign workers, we'd go under," says Kenichi Masuda. In his family's century-old cast-iron foundry, elderly Japanese blackened from head to toe with soot shovel coke from the first floor into a furnace and pour molten iron into molds in a dimly lit wooden building.

"Young Japanese don't want to do this dangerous, dirty work," Masuda shouts above the deafening clank of machinery, pointing out a Chinese working for him legally on a government training programme.

At a neighbouring foundry, 29-year-old Paul Aduma from Ghana works for 900 yen (\$6.42) an hour under the same programme originally designed to transfer manufacturing skills to developing countries.

At 6:30 a.m. at grimy Takadanobaba station on Tokyo's west side, a recruiting centre for day labourers, construction foremen pass over the few aging Japanese men reclining on cardboard and reeking of alcohol.

Young, eager, neatly dressed Chinese students wave away an

offer of 800 yen (about \$6) an hour — about 25 times what they'd make in China. "Too cheap. He's crazy," they say. With an offer of 1,250 yen (about \$9), they board a van to be taken to a construction site.

"I used to work in New York," says a Malaysian, who didn't want his name used. "But the money is a lot better here."

It's hard to be unemployed in a labour market like this. An Asian American reporter at the station is asked if she wants a job as a waitress in a family restaurant.

In the sprawling neon jungle of Kabukicho, thousands of women from the Philippines, Thailand and Korea work in bars, sex shows and prostitution, most brought to this country by Japanese gangsters.

In Tokyo's immigration office, Thais, Ghanaians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Chinese and others stand, squat and sleep in hallways bursting with endless queues of people, trying in a babel of languages to persuade overwhelmed bureaucrats to let them stay a few more months.

Scores of Japanese-language schools have opened in the past couple of years catering to students from developing countries, some acting primarily as visa brokers. But there are few other businesses that cater to the new arrivals, who have to keep a low profile to avoid trouble from authorities.

Most foreign labourers are working illegally after entering on tourist visas, or on student visas that allow only part-time work. Japan, unlike many developed countries, has no legal provision to allow foreigners to enter as unskilled labourers.

Big business and the government want to keep it that way. Although small businesses have been lobbying the government to allow more foreign workers, industry leaders argue for greater investment in machines to solve labour shortages.

Even many Japanese who want foreign workers for temporary help worry that they will settle here and disturb Japan's "social harmony." But many of the foreigners, stung by prejudice, say they don't want to stay.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, December 27, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	111.0	112.1
U.S. dollar	644.0	650.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	453.2	457.7
Pound Sterling	1046.8	1057.3	Dutch guilder	331.5	338.9
Deutschemark	378.8	382.6	Swedish crown	103.9	104.9
Swiss franc	416.5	420.7	Italian lira (for 100)	50.6	51.1
			Belgian franc (for 100)	180.2	182.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6295/310	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1585/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.6885/95	Deutschemark	
	1.9090/105	Dutch guilders	
	1.5310/30	Swiss francs	
	35.53/58	Belgian francs	
	5.7750/800	French francs	
	1265/1267	Italian lire	
	141.80/90	Japanese yen	
	6.1810/60	Swedish crowns	
	6.5610/60	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5640/90	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	409.43/409.85	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Offshore buying helped boost the share market to a firmer close in quiet trading after the Christmas holiday break. The All Ordinaries Index closed 7.4 up at 1651.8.

TOKYO — Share prices sailed ahead, propelled by index-linked buying and scattered buying by investment trust funds. The Nikkei soared 120.32 to a record 38,801.63.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking pared most of the early morning gains with the main stock index ending only slightly firmer. The Hang Seng Index rose 8.23 to 2,929.25.

SINGAPORE — Share prices fell over a broad front on profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 4.36 points lower at 1,483.40.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — Share prices soared on massive overseas buying. The DAX index surged to an historic high of 1,771.44, up 75.06 points.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed mixed in quiet trading. The Performance Index rose four points to 1,128.

PARIS — French shares closed higher, helped by an early rally on Wall Street and foreign buyers. The CAC rose 8.17 points to close at 1,985.66.

LONDON — Shares extended early sharp gains as Wall Street rallied modestly but the rise was greatly inflated by thin seasonal trading. By 1542 GMT the FTSE 100 was 31.0 points up at 2,993.0.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks rose on year-end bargain hunting. By 1630 GMT the Dow was trading at 2,726.11, up 17 points.

THE BETTER HALF.

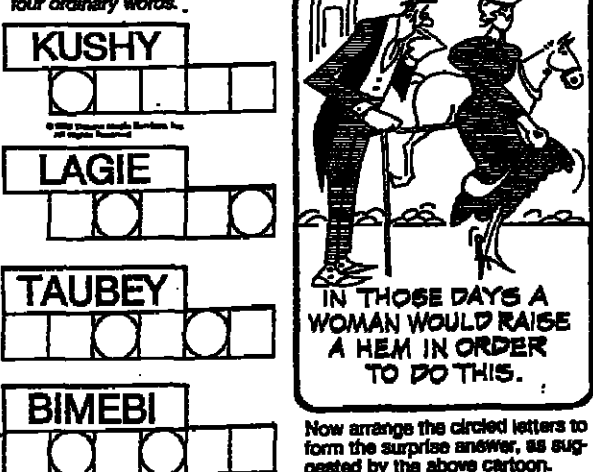
By Harris



"You should have yourself frozen until they discover a cure for stupidity."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: BOGUS QUASH MUSKET CLERGY
Answer: What legal "tender" might be when you don't have it — "TOUGH"

Peanuts

Mutt'n Jeff

Andy Capp



English, Dutch fans worry World Cup city

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (R)—The people of Sardinia have always been distrustful of the sea for it carries the invaders who occupy the island over the centuries. So it will be next June when the ferries that ply the Mediterranean between mainland Italy and the Sardinian capital of Cagliari dock with the notorious English and Dutch soccer fans for the World Cup finals.

Officially Cagliari is delighted with the draw that will bring England and the Netherlands here. It is confident that massive security will contain potential violence from the hooligans who have blackened their countries' names.

But members of the public are less happy and some say locals could be tempted to take the law into their own hands if police are unable to head off trouble.

"The fans are welcome as long as they behave well," said Antonello Lavretti, a 26-year-old

salesman and local soccer fan. "The people here are the sort that mind their own business but they also have a saying 'don't go looking for me because if you do you'll find me'," he added.

One taxi driver, noting that Sardinians were peaceful until given cause to feel offended, was more blunt.

"They'll get a good reception," he said. "But if they misbehave they'll get stung in the sea."

Sardinia, accessible only by plane or ferry, was chosen as the first round venue for England during the 1990 World Cup finals because organisers say its isolation provides the best available means to contain hooliganism.

England, as Group F seeds, will play all three first round matches in Cagliari against the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt, who will travel from their base in the Sicilian capital Palermo.

The England-Netherlands tie on June 16 is potentially the most

explosive of the finals given the rivalries between hooligans from both countries.

"There is no point denying people are a bit afraid but the fear has been increased by all the talk about hooligans in the media," Cagliari mayor Paolo de Magistris said.

He said he had asked the Italian government to plead with Britain and the Netherlands to ensure known troublemakers were stopped from reaching Sardinia.

"Since it's sadly true that these people are infamous that probably means they're also known so I think it must be easy to filter them out," de Magistris said.

He said he was also proposing a ban on the sale of alcohol "It could be an additional

security measure. I don't think these people will be arriving with barrels of beer. The most they could bring would be a couple of bottles," he said.

Thousands of Italian police and a special British anti-hooligan squad will be in Cagliari to try to prevent trouble.

Details of the security operation are still being worked out but Dutch, Egyptian and Irish fans arriving from Palermo are likely to be met by police and escorted throughout their stay, according to World Cup organising committee sources.

English fans staying at beach-side resorts in Sardinia may also be escorted in and out of Cagliari on match days to prevent them wandering around the city, the sources said.

Navratilova picked as athlete of the decade

By Hal Bock
The Associated Press

At age 33, Martina Navratilova is passing into a new phase of her tennis life and nobody knows it better than she does.

She is surrounded by a crowd of young hotshot players, many of them not yet out of their teens, all of them fuelled by the fever of championships, the thrill of holding a trophy high over their heads, exulting over another tournament title.

Navratilova knows the feeling very well.

From 1982 through 1986, she was ranked number one, the very best women's tennis player in the world. There was a record streak of 74 consecutive victories and another string of 58 straight.

There were 15 grand slam singles titles — a record six straight at

Wimbledon, four U.S. Opens, three Australian Opens and two French Opens. Her total of 50 grand slam titles is second only to Margaret Court's 66.

It was a string of success that made her an easy winner as Associated Press woman athlete of the decade. Navratilova received 283 votes in balloting by U.S. sports writers and broadcasters to far outdistance one of the young tennis hotshots, Steffi Graf, who had 69.

They were followed by Florence Griffith Joyner (61), Jackie Joyner-Kersey (30), Nancy Lopez (27), Katarina Witt (4), Ingrid Kristiansen (3), Evelyn Ashford (2) and Grete Waitz (2).

Fifty-seven times during her career, Navratilova swept both the singles and doubles championships of the same tournament. The men's leader is John

McEnroe with 29 singles-doubles sweeps.

In 1986, she became only the second woman in modern tennis history to win 1,000 matches, joining longtime rival Chris Evert, who reached that milestone in 1984.

Evert, who retired after the 1989 U.S. Open, was Navratilova's fiercest opponent. Together, they staged one of the sport's greatest head-to-head road shows, meeting 80 times over 15 years beginning at Akron in 1973 and finishing at Chicago in 1988.

Navratilova held a 43-37 career edge over Evert, including 14-8 in grand slam events and 7-2 at Wimbledon. In the '70s, Evert had a 25-11 lead but Navratilova turned that around by winning 32 of their 44 matches during the next decade.

With partner Pam Shriver, Navratilova formed one of the most successful doubles teams in history, winning a record 109 consecutive matches from April 24, 1983 through July 6, 1985.

Time, however, has changed Navratilova's approach to her sport.

"Tennis is not the most important thing in my life," she said during 1989, her second straight year without a grand slam title. "I'm not willing to sacrifice everything in order to play good tennis. I did that for five or six years. Maybe I'm too mature

to do it now."

There was a time, though... Navratilova came to the United States in 1975, a scared teen-ager from Czechoslovakia, equipped with a tennis racquet and a dream. It would take much more than that, though, to excel at her sport.

It was her dedication to a rigorous training schedule that included a strict diet, weightlifting, running and hours of daily practice that turned her into the best player of her time.

Wimbledon victories in 1978 and 1979 set the stage for her romp through the next decade. She would dominate the game, particularly the majors and although she never was credited with a single season grand slam sweep, she did win six straight majors over two seasons starting with Wimbledon in 1983.

She has always flourished on the staid grass courts of the All-England Club, reaching at least the semifinals of that tournament every year in this decade. There is something about the place that fans her flame.

"My strut is back," she said on the eve of the 1989 Wimbledon.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All sorts of benefits arise as a result of positive action taken on the December 12th Full Moon which set many good things in motion that will benefit co-workers as well.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are about to have some very interesting entertainments and recreations come into your life. A trip with your attachment could produce fine results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Business arrangements formerly good for you are now your best means of forging ahead with assets. Find out what your attachment needs of a practical nature.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A family member that was out of your life will come back to be helpful to you. Give your attachment a present of material value.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Entertain outside associates in your home and it will benefit you. Seeing your opportunities in a broader aspect can bring you more revenue.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Put in motion a talent now that you have thought you could not utilize. Accept sudden romantic gestures from your mate and enjoy yourselves.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home is the place to think about adding improvements to increase your values. Stick to proven methods in doing what pleases your mate for more happiness.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) The stars impel, they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you.

a very bad business judgment today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Argument at home now can destroy the harmony carefully built up there. Get matters with your attachment arranged on a more organized basis.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good friend will give you very good suggestions for your business affairs. Added harmony can now exist at your residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It will take some time to convince an older friend of a plan you have in mind. Entertain your attachment at interesting outside places.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Friends and acquaintances from a distance can occupy your time and attention now. Show appreciation to confidential advisors by entertaining them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sociable with the most prominent persons you have known for sometime. Show more emotional fervor towards those who also dwell beneath your roof.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will find many benefits in religious training and working in educational pursuits. Organizational activities will be a natural for this child early on and many of their classmates will want this person to run for office or hold a position of merit in the school system.

"The stars impel, they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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USE YOUR HIGH CARDS WISELY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

WEST EAST
♠ A 10 7 3 ♠ J 5 4 2
♥ 8 5 3 ♥ K J 9 6
♦ A 2 ♦ Q 8 3
♣ 7 5 2 ♣ J 9

SOUTH
♠ K Q ♠ A 10 7 3
♥ A 10 7 3 ♥ K J 9 6
♦ K Q ♦ Q 8 3
♣ A K 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
2NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

The natural tendency is to conserve one's assets. Once in a while, however, you have to spend a little to gain rich dividends at some future time.

South's jump to two no trump showed a balanced 19-20 points. Since North had a balanced hand, there was little point in looking for any game contract other than three no trump.

West's lead of the queen of diamonds attacked dummy's entry, so declarer could not afford to hold up on the first round. After winning the king, declarer cashed the king and queen of spades and crossed to the ace of diamonds to cash the ace of spades. When the jack failed to come down, declarer had to be satisfied with eight tricks.

This result was highly satisfactory to East-West. Although North-South were in their best spot (four spades raked to fall), declarer had not found the winning line. Indeed, the contract was unbeatable once West had followed to the second spade with the nine.

Now there was only one spade missing that was higher than dummy's 10 8—the jack. Therefore, declarer could have afforded to overtake the queen of spades with the ace to continue with the ten, forcing East to win with the jack. East's diamond continuation goes to dummy's ace, but the eight of spades draws the last outstanding spade and dummy's long spade becomes the fulfilling trick. Declarer collects four spades, a heart and two tricks in each minor suit.

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Banahoff

ACROSS:
1 Father
2 Display
3 Dress
4 "Give" horse he can ride
5 Fix roads
6 Adv. fly
7 "Peer Gynt" author
8 Double curve
9 "mum" (guideword)
10 Suffered a reverse
11 Descendant of Muhammad
12 "Jane" —
13 Encourage
14 "Rabbit"
15 Asian river
16 Gilt
17 Gilt about
18 Unimportant
19 Can. prov.
20 River to the Euphrates
21 Follow
22 Capable of
23 One of three ships
24 Wine valley
25 Horse mishap
26 Confuse
27 Degree holder for short
28 "The Thinker" sculptor
29 Lager
30 Seraph
31 Bread
32 Decadent
33 Intrepid
34 Ugandan tyrant
35 Stick to one's
36 Preparation
37 Vegetable
38 Blue color
39 Supplement
40 Sheep
41 Patched
42 Neck hair
43 Lumbar
44 Caroline
45 Buck heroin

DOWN:
1 Buck
2 Empty pulp
3 Bridge bid
4 Diff old style
5 Animal track
6 The —, Neth.
7 Hot place
8 Sander
9 Implement
10 TX shrine
11 "The Thinker" sculptor
12 Lager
13 Seraph
14 Bread
15 Decadent
16 Intrepid
17 Ugandan tyrant
18 Stick to one's
19 Preparation
20 Vegetable
21 Blue color
22 Supplement
23 Sheep
24 Patched
25 Neck hair
26 Lumbar
27 Caroline
28 Buck heroin
29 Harvest
30 Performer
31 Calhoun
32 Have trust
33 Loosen
34 Cabin cousin
35 Ration of —

All Birth Gems Are At

WORLD RESOURCES

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The Government Tenders Directorate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan, China and local contractors who have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as first or second class water and sewerage to submit their offers for the above-mentioned Tender No. 01/90/Central for the supply and construction of water lines in various diameters.

Tender documents are obtainable against the payment of a non-refundable sum of JD 150 each from the Tenders Division at the Water Authority main office, Amman.

Bids are due at the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing not later than 1330 hours Jordan local time on Wednesday, 31/01/1990.

Eng. Salem Qudah
Chairman of Central Tenders Committee
Director Government Tenders Directorate

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LICENCE TO KILL

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

A FISH CALLED WANDA

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

HOSTAGE SYNDROME

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

Mel Gibson & Darryl Glover in Lethal Weapon "2"

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 674111

PLAZA

LICENCE TO KILL

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

MISSING



The Filipino maid Virginia R. San Juan has left the house of her employer, located in Shmeisani on Dec. 10, 1989 and has not returned yet.

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Cambodia war heats up; rebels cut supply routes

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas said they have cut Cambodian government supply routes to the war-racked north west as fighting intensifies in the country three months after the Vietnamese troop withdrawal.

Officials of the Khmer Rouge's two non-Communist allies said they may now try to aim for a full military victory rather than a political settlement with the Hanoi-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Khmer Rouge attacks along route 5 isolated government garrisons in the western province capitals of Siem Reap and Battambang from the capital Tuesday, officials of the non-Communist wing of the guerrillas said Wednesday.

"We didn't think we were capable of winning by military means, but we may have to rethink our strategy. (Government forces) are just collapsing," said Ok Serey Sopheap, spokesman for the military arm of the Khmer Rouge's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

The KPNLF and the Sihanoukian National Army (ANS) are allied with the much stronger Communist Khmer Rouge, widely condemned for its 1975-79 rule during which the West estimates one million Cambodians died.

The KPNLF and ANS have said they are fighting for a political settlement to bring all guerrilla forces into a coalition with the 11-year-old Communist government.

An ANS official said there would be another round of informal talks between the various factions in Jakarta in February, the first since an international conference in Paris ended in deadlock last August.

Some officials said they may now seek a full-scale military offensive against government forces suffering from communications, training and morale problems.

"The only thing they have over us are heavy weapons. Their firepower is much greater than ours," said Ok Serey. "We think we have to advance more on the military situation."

Diplomats quoted Phnom Penh officials as saying the Khmer Rouge's non-Communist allies have already cut Route 6, the other main road from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and Battambang.

KPNLF and ANS officials claim their forces control a quarter of Cambodia but diplomats in Bangkok said their influence is confined to the sparsely populated northwest.

"We still have to rely on the Khmer Rouge and (its backer)

conference in Paris ended in deadlock last August.

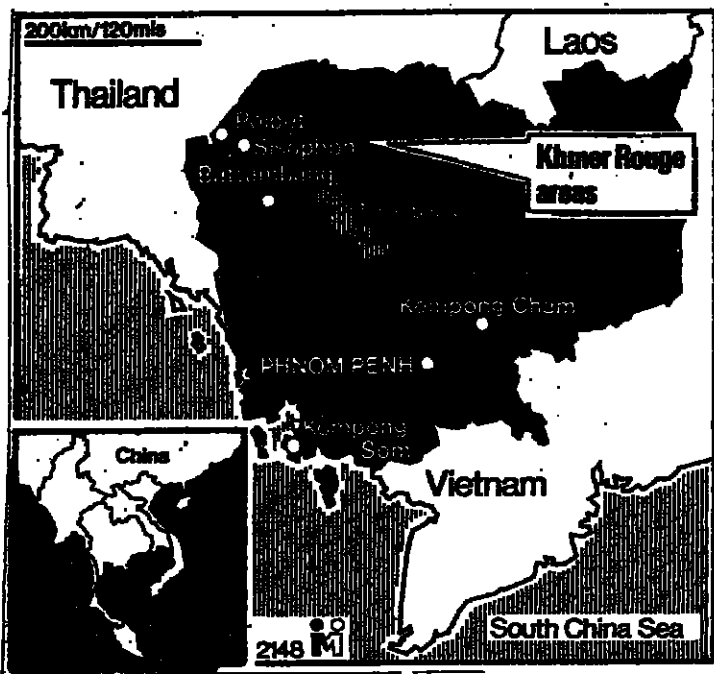
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"We still have to rely on the Khmer Rouge and (its backer)



China for heavy weapons," said ANS spokesman Ek Sereyath. "Phnom Penh has ruled out any role for the Khmer Rouge in a future government."

Rebel officials said the guerrilla offensive may force Prime Minister Hun Sen into accommodating the Khmer Rouge.

"There is a dilemma. If there is no political solution in the next year the Khmer Rouge will go from strength to strength," said long Mosby, secretary-general of the KPNLF.

Khmer Rouge radio said Wednesday its guerrillas had attacked garrisons in Kratie and Kampong Cham provinces within 75 kilometres of Phnom Penh.

Sri Lankan rebels kill 4 people

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Suspected Sinhalese left-wing rebels stormed a wedding ceremony in Sri Lanka's southern region and shot dead four guests, military sources said Wednesday.

They said the assailants grabbed four men in the house at Urubokke in Matara district Tuesday and shot them. The motive for the attack was not known.

Elsewhere in the south, residents said the bodies of nine unidentified young men were burning on car tyres on the roadside in Hambantota district Wednesday.

They said the killings were apparently revenge attacks by vigilantes hunting members of the leftist People's Liberation Front, which is fighting to overthrow the government.

A government statement said security forces killed 12 rebels in the 24 hours to Wednesday morning.

In one incident, police shot dead nine men who attacked them in Kandy in the Central Highlands.

Military sources said in the north, Tamil militants fired at a train in Vavuniya district and a navy base in Jaffna district. There were no casualties.

Military sources said three policemen and a soldier were killed in a blast in southern Hambantota district Wednesday.

They said a mine exploded when the victims were walking down a jungle road. Another soldier was injured in the attack which was blamed on left-wing rebels.

More than 150 members of an outlawed Tamil militia surrendered to the Sri Lankan army after 44 of their comrades were killed by rival Tamil guerrillas, officials said Tuesday.

After a three-day trek through jungles in eastern Sri Lanka to

COLUMN

Firms spend \$32b on entertainment

TOKYO (R) — Japanese companies spent a record \$32 billion in the year to Jan. 31, 1989 on entertainment, according to figures released by the National Tax Agency Wednesday. The amount was up 8.7 per cent from the previous year and translates into an average \$17,300 in entertainment expenses for each Japanese company.

Man with 300 rare reptiles held

BANGKOK (AP) — A Japanese man who tried to smuggle nearly 300 turtles and lizards of endangered species to Japan in his suitcases was arrested at Bangkok International Airport, a Thai police officer said Wednesday.

Capt. Paiboon Arincharai said Tsuyoshi Shirawa, 20, of Shizuoka Prefecture, was arrested after authorities discovered that his four suitcases contained 98 turtles and 185 oriental water lizards. Shirawa told police that he had brought the animals from Malaysia and stopped in Bangkok to visit a friend en route to Japan.

Charged with possession of endangered wildlife, Shirawa was sentenced Monday to three months in prison and fined 2,500 baht (\$100). The prison sentence was suspended. Paiboon said the animals were tightly packed into the baggage and bound to prevent them from making noise and moving. Two turtles and one lizard died, he said.

Hotel queen rejects plea deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Hotel queen Leona Helmsley rejected a plea deal on state tax-evasion charges, saying she was not giving up her fight to prove her innocence of similar federal charges. "I've committed no crime," said Mrs. Helmsley, 70, as she left the state courthouse.

"I think that when the U.S. appeals court reads the whole record they will vindicate me because I'm innocent," Mrs. Helmsley was convicted on Aug. 30 on federal charges of evading \$1.2 million in income taxes. On Dec. 12, she was sentenced to four years in prison and fined more than \$7 million. She was with her lawyer, Gerald Feffer, when he filed papers in state supreme court saying the state tax charges against Mrs. Helmsley amount to double jeopardy because of the federal conviction.

Campbell comes to child's aid

PHOENIX (AP) — Singer Glen Campbell has come to the aid of a 5½-month-old boy whose doctors say will die unless he gets a liver transplant. Charles and Julie Tenuta of Phoenix are trying to get their son, Tommie, on a waiting list at the University of Chicago Medical Center. But they don't have the required \$100,000 down payment. About \$32,000 has been raised, Campbell, a Phoenix resident, announced that he will hold a benefit concert on Jan. 9 at a nightclub and that the proceeds would go toward paying for Tommie's transplant. "You can raise money for a lot of things, and this little baby comes up and he does need a liver transplant," Campbell said. Tommie's doctor, Dennis Shermeta, said the University of Chicago Medical Center offers alternatives not available in Arizona. The Chicago hospital recently performed the nation's first two living donor liver transplant operations. Mrs. Tenuta said she would be willing to donate part of her liver, but that the first order of business is to move to Chicago with her son.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN. MAX.		Weather
	° F	° C	
AMSTERDAM	-01	20	37 Cloudy
ATHENS	05	43	48 Fair
BAGDAD	14	57	60 Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	81 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	24	75	80 Cloudy
CAIRO	X	X	X
CHICAGO	-15	05	47 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	38	48 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-22	28	83 Clear
GENOVA	04	35	94 Cloudy
HONG KONG	13	55	16 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	04	39	94 Cloudy
LONDON	05	41	96 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13	68	74 Cloudy
MADRID	13	57	46 Rain
MEXICO	20	76	81 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-27	-20	-04 Cloudy
MOSCOW	X	X	X
NEW DELHI	09	49	117 Cloudy
NEW YORK	-05	23	71 Cloudy
PARIS	04	38	102 Cloudy
ROME	02	35	95 Cloudy
SEOUL	27	70	82 Cloudy
TOKYO	09	48	114 Cloudy
WENNA	X	X	X

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

69 killed during Christmas in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At least 69 people, almost all black, were killed over the four-day Christmas weekend in violent crimes and political faction fighting, police said Wednesday. Police said 38 people were stabbed, beaten or shot to death in and around Cape Town over the holiday period, which included Tuesday. One of those killed was a black policeman shot with his own gun after he was attacked by two men who lived with him. Also, police reported 12 murders and 24 rapes from Saturday through Tuesday in Soweto, the black township of 2.5 million people outside Johannesburg. The police unrest summaries over the four-day period listed an additional seven deaths. The latest report, released Wednesday, said a black policeman was killed in an attack near the port city of Durban and a black man and a black woman turned to death when their bus was set afire near the southern town of Port Shepstone, the report added. Authorities also said more than 90 people were killed in traffic accidents from Friday night through Tuesday.

353 killed on roads in U.S.

CHICAGO (AP) — Accidents on U.S. roads and highways killed 353 people during the long Christmas weekend, well within estimates from the National Safety Council. California claimed the highest toll of 48, followed by 27 in Florida and 22 in Texas. The Chicago-based Council had said that from 320 to 420 people would die in traffic accidents during an official 78-hour counting period between Friday evening and Monday night. It based its estimate on data from previous years, seasonal weather factors and national driving safety trends. During last year's Christmas holiday, 386 traffic fatalities were reported. For the New Year's holiday period, the council estimates between 250 and 350 people could die in road accidents, compared with 317 last year.

Tiger bites off zookeeper's arm

TOKYO (AP) — A Bengal tiger bit off a 19-year-old woman zookeeper's arm as she was giving it water with a hose from outside its cage at a northern Japan safari park, police said Wednesday. A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the right arm of Kinie Nagasaku was bitten off at the elbow Tuesday at the Tohoku Safari Park Zoo in Fukushima Prefecture (state), 240 kilometres north east of Tokyo. Ms. Nagasaku, who had been feeding the tiger and cleaning its cage daily since April 1, told police from her hospital bed that she was giving the animal water from outside the cage, but declined to discuss details, the officials said. The official said police believed she might have put her hand into the cage as she guided the hose. The tiger could not have reached out through the five-centimetre space between bars in the cage, he added. Akihiko Ando, an official of the zoo, said other zookeepers heard a scream and rushed to the cage, where they found Ms. Nagasaku falling.

Typhoon Jack weakens

AGANA, Guam (AP) — A weakening typhoon Jack began to drift toward this U.S. territory in the western Pacific Wednesday and was forecast to at least brush the island Friday, according to civil defence officials. At 5 p.m. (0700 GMT) Wednesday, the storm with winds of 160 kilometres per hour (kph) and gusts to 200 kph was located 265 kilometres east of Guam, moving at about 4.8 kph to the west southwest, said George Toves, a Guam civil defence officer. "Forecasters can't determine how close it will come, but it's expected to pass Guam during the day Friday," said Toves. "We'll get some portion of it."

Seoul drafts accord with N. Korea on visits

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea has drafted an accord it hopes to sign with Communist North Korea for safe passage of people across the border that separates the two countries, officials said Wednesday.

One official at the government's National Unification Board, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the accord would be presented for review at a meeting of the two countries' prime ministers next year.

The two Koreas have been discussing holding a meeting of their prime ministers for the first time since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945. Officials expect the meeting to be held next year.

If it is, it would be the highest-level meeting ever between the rival states.

The draft accord, as reported by a local newspaper, would allow people of each side to cross the border and stay on the other side for up to 60 days, twice a year.

A joint committee working at the border village of Panmunjom would help process people wanting to cross the border, it said.

Officials said the draft was similar to an agreement signed between East and West Germany in 1972 for safe passage of their people across the German border.

The two Korean states have been bitter rivals since the peninsula was divided roughly along the 38th Parallel at the end of World War II in 1945. The border has been sealed since.

Moscow rebuke could help Lithuanian party

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership's firm rebuke to Lithuanian Communists over a breakthrough move may ironically help to improve the party's flagging image in the independent-minded Baltic republic.

The policy-making Central Committee Tuesday unanimously backed Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev in condemning as illegal the Lithuanian Communists' vote last week to split with Moscow.

Lithuanian Communists have been trying to distance themselves from the Kremlin in a bid to restore their party's credibility with voters.

Throughout the Baltic region the Communists have suffered at the hands of popular front mass movements, which have called for greater autonomy from Moscow and more democracy.

Lithuanian Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas has said local Communists need to establish their own party to regain prestige for elections in February.

Soviet officials said Tuesday that Gorbachev would visit Lithuania in the next few days to try to persuade the local Communists to return to the Kremlin fold.

Honecker ousted after clash with Gorbachev

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's Stalinist leader Erich Honecker was ousted after a clash with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in October, a former politburo member disclosed Wednesday.

Horst Sindermann said in an interview with the Communist youth newspaper Junge Welt that Honecker spurned Gorbachev's call for reform in East Germany.

"The realisation that Honecker had to go was constantly growing. The last straw was Gorbachev's visit for the 40th anniversary (of the East German state, Oct. 7)," said Sindermann, former president of the rubber-stamp parliament, who was expelled from the Communist Party in November.

"Gorbachev had a very good discussion with the politburo. He spoke about his problems and ours, saying perestroika (restructuring) was much easier for us

because we had a higher economic level," he said.

"Honecker... dragged out U.N. statistics showing we had higher productivity than the Soviet Union. He used that to justify sticking to the old course, saying we could manage very well on our own. He told Gorbachev that."

"That was the turning point. We left the meeting and agreed: 'That's enough. Tomorrow we will go to the politburo and (then Prime Minister Willi) Stoph will propose removing Honecker. And that's what happened,'" he said.

Sindermann said Honecker had done much to build up East Germany but "he introduced step by step a royalist system."

Describing how the old leadership worked, Sindermann said all important decisions were worked out privately by Honecker and economic policy chief

Gunter Mittag, then rubber-stamped by the politburo.

He confirmed reports that when Honecker fell ill during the summer, he sent his official number two, Egon Krenz, on holiday to prevent him from taking over the party.

Krenz replaced Honecker as general secretary of the party in October but resigned under public pressure after only 44 days in office because he was too closely associated with the old regime.

New Forum will not become full party

In a separate development, New Forum, East Germany's largest opposition group, said Tuesday it will remain a broad political movement but will not constitute itself into a full political party.

The group, which claims 200,000 members, said its members can run as independent candidates in free elections set for

next May but will not be permitted to run as candidates for other groups.

"We will remain the only broad citizens' movement," said a statement issued by New Forum's national council and signed by Jens Reich, one of the group's co-founders.

Several New Forum provincial leaders have urged that the movement turn itself into a full political party. The move has been opposed by New Forum leaders in East Berlin.

Tuesday's statement said the future election law, which is now under discussion by various groups, should allow independent candidates to run in May's elections.

East Germany's coalition government, created in a peaceful revolution after 40 years of Communist leadership, has agreed with the opposition to hold free elections on May 6, 1990.

Ceausescu remained defiant to the end

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena went to their deaths at the hands of an army firing squad defiantly denying the right of their military accusers to judge them.

"I do not recognise this court. I will be judged only by the people," Ceausescu repeatedly told the military prosecutor in a videotaped Romanian television broadcast late Tuesday.

The television did not show the couple's faces when their death sentence was pronounced, apparently without any pause in proceedings after the attempted interrogation. But Ceausescu was heard clearly to say: "It doesn't matter. It has no importance."

The Ceausescus, seized Friday after the revolution which overthrew them, were accused by firing squad after Monday's trial in a secret location convicted them of genocide and other crimes.

The country's new Prime Minister Petre Roman said Tuesday the pair were summarily executed because of fears that forces loyal to the Ceausescus were planning a rescue attempt.

The hour-long videotape of the final hours of the couple who ruled Romania with an iron hand for 24 years showed Ceausescu, 71, arguing angrily at the army tribunal Monday, and declaring in a loud voice: "I do not recognise this court. Read the constitution."

"We've read the constitution," an off-screen voice answered. "We know it better than you."

"I will not answer a single question," Ceausescu said.

The screening ended with a final image of Ceausescu looking back through his 10-year-old wife's eyes at a concrete wall, his eyes open

and blood oozing from his head.

The television never showed his accusers, but broadcast their voices.

At one stage challenged on what he had done for society, he said: "I built hospitals."

Questioned about food shortages, he curtly retorted: "The people have 200 kilos of corn..."

Both were dressed neatly, she in a fur-collared blue topcoat and black and white scarf with a red tie, he in a black coat. She sat grey faced, listening attentively to her accusers.

From time to time her husband put his hand on her hand to reassure her as they sat at a table in a sparsely furnished room.

Ceausescu, seized Friday after the revolution which overthrew him, was executed with his wife after Monday's swift trial found him guilty of genocide and other crimes against the state.

"I will answer nothing. I will sign nothing. I will not recognise this court," Ceausescu said.

"Who ordered the shooting of the people?" the interrogator asked.

"I will not answer a single question," Ceausescu replied. "Do not interpret my silence as answers."

"I will only answer to the working class," said Ceausescu, who often started at the ceiling. "I will tell the people. I will answer to the working class."

"The people should fight to destroy this band which together with foreign powers wants to destroy the country and has carried out a coup," Ceausescu screamed, pointing frantically with his finger. He often wagged his finger

in the gesture that was a hallmark of the hectoring style he adopted throughout his political life.

Ceausescu emotionally waved his hand up and down and said he would answer only to parliament.

Elena occasionally smiled and mumbled. Earlier Tuesday, a member of the National Salvation Front interim government quoted her as telling her captors: "We want to die together, we do not want mercy."

"What possessed you to reduce the people to the state they are in?" the interrogator asked. "Not even the peasants had enough wheat and had to come to Bucharest to buy bread."

"Why did the people have to starve?"

"This is a lie," Ceausescu said. "Think carefully. It is a lie and proves the lack of patriotism currently in the country."

"You destroyed the Romanian people and their economy," the interrogator said. "Such things are unheard of in the civilised world."

"We do not intend to argue with you," Ceausescu said. "The population had everything it needed."

Elena stared absently with apparent lack of interest.

"I will answer only to the people's parliament in connection with treason and the coup and how things happened in Romanian history and you will all answer to the people," Ceausescu said.

"How can you let them speak to you like that?" Elena said to her husband. "Will you allow them to speak to an academician in such a way?"

Elena seemed exhausted and was slumped against the wall in

her chair most of the time. But sometimes her eyes darted back and forth.

"Let Elena Ceausescu tell us about the costs of publishing her books abroad," the off-screen voice said.

"I gave my entire life for my people," she said angrily, making chopping motions with her hand. "Our people."

"On the basis of the actions of the members of the Ceausescu family, we condemn the two of you to death," the off-screen voice said. "We confiscate all your property."

Then there was a freeze-frame and the accused pair's reaction was not visible.

"Please enter into the minutes that all the conditions exist to bring a verdict of guilty," the voice said.

The off-screen voice, in an angry and decisive tone, then listed the articles under which the two were found guilty.

"We tried to get you a lawyer," the voice said. "Your crimes were such that you merit the biggest penalty."

Ceausescu tried to comfort his wife by touching her hand. She looked down and licked her lips.

"It is said that you do not wish to confess the crimes you have committed against the Romanian people," the voice said. "We mean here in Timisoara and Bucharest."

"You have not only deprived the people of bread and heating, but you imprisoned the Romanian spirit which could not express itself in any way. You took oxygen from the wounded," the voice continued.

"Your terrorists supplied themselves in the underground and opposed the people. You have drained us. You went to the Ayatollah to make your

final goodbyes (a reference to Ceausescu's state visit to Iran last week). You call on the people. How can you face this very people?"

Elena laughed.

"This laugh says all that needs to be said about you," the voice said.

"On the basis of your behaviour, you belong to in a madhouse," the voice said.

"The two of you, if you beg my pardon, should listen to what I am saying."

Ceausescu throughout the trial often turned his head back and forth like a trapped animal.

"You have nothing to say about the revolution? The blood spilled in Timisoara?" the voice said.

Ceausescu stood up. "I can only be accused by the people's parliament. You are putschists, the destroyers of Romania's independence," he sat down again.

"I was respected when I went to the factories..." but the voice interrupted him before he could finish.

When ordered to stand, Ceausescu and his wife refused.

"It is unanimously decided that Ceausescu Nicolae and Ceausescu Elena be given the maximum sentence for genocide against the Romanian people and the destruction of the Romanian land," the voice said.

"I refuse to recognise this court," Ceausescu declared. The footage stopped.

Then shots of Ceausescu's blood-stained corpse, previously shown on television, were screened again. An army officer said so many soldiers had volunteered to join the firing squad that a lottery was held to allocate places.

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